

Headlines:

USCG – RAC drill clarification re SMFF;
FCC – maritime mobile radio services;
Tennessee River – safety zone proposed;
CTAC – meeting on 28 Feb-2 March;
San Juan Islands – whale protection zone sought;
SLSDC – civil penalties;
DOJ - \$2.7 million penalty for pollution;
CMTS – US Arctic maritime infrastructure;
House – bill introduced re liens on fishing permits; and
UK – fatality report.

January 13, 2017



Bryant's Maritime News

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*Note: This newsletter is one section of the **Bryant's Maritime Consulting** website. Visit the site for more extensive maritime regulatory information. Individual concerns may be addressed by retaining **Dennis Bryant** directly. Much of the highlighted text in this newsletter constitutes links to Internet sites providing more detailed information. Links on this page may be in PDF format, requiring use of Adobe Acrobat Reader. Comments on these postings are encouraged and may be made by email to the editor or by going to the blog page on the website and clicking the envelope that appears at the end of each posting. Be aware that the daily newsletter is a single posting, even though it contains a number of individual items. Save the Earth – it's the only planet with chocolate!*

USCG – RAC drill clarification re SMFF



The US Coast Guard issued a Marine Safety Information Bulletin (MSIB) clarifying items pertaining to Remote Access and Consultation (RAC) drills relating to the Salvage and Marine Firefighting (SMFF) portion of the National Preparedness for Response Exercise Program (NPREP). **MSIB 02-17** (1/11/17) [https://www.uscg.mil/msib/docs/002_17_1-11-2017.pdf].

FCC – maritime mobile radio services



The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) proposes to withdraw as an accounting authority for maritime mobile and maritime mobile-satellite radio services and transition the functions and duties to private accounting authorities. Comments must be received by 14 March. **82 Fed. Reg. 4269** (1/13/17) [<https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2017-01-13/pdf/2017-00597.pdf>]. *Note:*

The International Telecommunications Union (ITU) long ago established accounting authorities as a means for mariners to pay for ship-to-shore radiotelephone calls through marine operators (public coast stations) when outside of home waters, and in time enabled payment for calls from shipboard mobile satellite terminals. FCC has been a default accounting authority in the US for many years. The advantage in using them was that they required no contract for use and charged no administrative fee for their use. Most marine operators are now gone and most satellite providers are paid through prearranged contracts, so the need for accounting authorities has likely diminished over the years. Nevertheless many users of legacy Inmarsat terminals or those wishing to place a call from one of the remaining public coast stations may be affected by this change.

Tennessee River – safety zone proposed



The US Coast Guard proposes to establish a safety zone on the Tennessee River from mile marker 446.0 to mile marker 454.5 to be enforced during periods of high water flow. Comments on the proposal must be received by 30 January. **82 Fed. Reg. 4229** (1/13/17) [<https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2017-01-13/pdf/2017-00696.pdf>].

TSAC – meeting on 28 Feb-2 March



The Chemical Transportation Safety Advisory Committee (CTAC), sponsored by the US Coast Guard, will meet on 28 February-2 March in Houston. Topics on the agenda include safety standards for the design of vessels carrying natural gas or using natural gas as fuel; marine vapor control systems, and transportation of hazardous materials. **82 Fed. Reg. 4371** (1/13/17) [<https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2017-01-13/pdf/2017-00648.pdf>].

San Juan Islands – whale protection zone sought



The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) issued a notice stating that it received a petition for rulemaking to establish a whale protection zone in the San Juan Islands to support recovery of endangered Southern Resident killer whales. Comments on the petition must be received by 13 April. **82 Fed. Reg. 4276** (1/13/17) [<https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2017-01-13/pdf/2017-00437.pdf>].

SLSDC – civil penalties



The Saint Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation (SLSDC) promulgated a final rule updating the maximum civil penalty amounts. The amendments enter into effect on 15 January. **82 Fed. Reg. 4172** (1/13/17) [<https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2017-01-13/pdf/2016-32050.pdf>].

DOJ – \$2.7 million penalty for pollution



The Department of Justice (DOJ) issued a **news release** stating that two shipping companies have been sentenced to pay corporate penalties totaling \$2.7 million after being convicted of obstructing justice, violating the Act to Prevent Pollution from Ships (APPS), tampering with witnesses, and conspiracy. The companies were placed on a five-year term of probation and barred from sending ships to the United States until the financial penalty has been satisfied. (1/12/17) [<https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/greek-shipping-companies-sentenced-pay-27-million-ocean-pollution>].

CMTS – US Arctic maritime infrastructure



The Committee on the Marine Transportation System (CMTS) issued a **notice** stating that the report entitled “Recommendations and Criteria for using Federal Public-Private Partnerships to Support Critical US Arctic Maritime Infrastructure” has been completed. The report puts forward nineteen recommendations for the implementation of public-private partnerships in developing, improving, and maintaining infrastructure in support of federal maritime activities, national security, navigation safety, and stewardship of natural resources in the US Arctic. (1/12/17) [<http://www.cmts.gov/Bulletin.aspx?id=5125>].

House – bill introduced re liens on fishing permits



Representative Young (R-AK) introduced the **Maritime Lien Reform Act** (H.R. 234) to provide limitations on maritime liens on fishing permits, and for other purposes. (1/3/17) [<https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/BILLS-115hr234ih/pdf/BILLS-115hr234ih.pdf>].

UK – fatality report



The UK Marine Accident Investigation Branch (MAIB) issued the report of its investigation of the fatality during cargo operations on board the general cargo ship Johanna C at Songkhla, Thailand on 11 May 2016. The chief officer fell from a large steel cargo that was being repositioned in the hold. It was inherently unsafe and unnecessary for the chief officer to stand on top of cargo while it was being lifted. **Report 1-2017** (1/12/17) [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/587625deed915d0aeb00013b/MAIBInvReport01_2017.pdf].

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